REPORT TO THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES

SEPTEMBER, 1989

Province of Nova Scotia
Canada

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90-07374/

Nova Scotia
Department of
Municipal Affairs

For a number of years, with the encouragement of the Department of Municipal Affairs, a consolidated response to all resolutions passed by Annual Conferences of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities has been prepared. These consolidations are, in effect, a report to succeeding Conferences of the manner in which the Province of Nova Scotia has replied to or acted upon matters of concern taken to the various Departments of Government at the direction of the general membership of the Union.

The report which follows has been prepared by our office, and we are indebted to the Department of Municipal Affairs for their assistance in facilitating its printing.

A review and assessment of the material contained on the following pages will identify for the reader the response of the Province to those matters felt to be important to municipal government. While replies from the various Ministers are carried in our monthly newsletter as received, the consolidation is nevertheless an invaluable reference piece for delegates to an Annual Conference on many of the previous year's activities and as an ongoing record of the Union's accomplishments and effectiveness in dealing with the Government of the Province.

Executive Director
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

THE UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES

I N D E X

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
SEPTEMBER 14 - 16, 1988

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Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
1 (A2)	JURIES ACT BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that until the Province assumes the full cost of the administration of justice the Province be requested to revise the Juries Act so that: (a) it establishes a realistic per diem fee to be cost shared between the Province and the relevant municipal units on an ability to pay basis; (b) set the travel allowance at the rate approved for travel by Provincial employees, and further that said rate be based on return mileage between the juror's place of residence and place of attendance; (c) require that the per diem for jury duty be reviewed on each occasion that there is a review of the salaries for members of the judiciary.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Attorney General Resolution 1 requests the Province to revise the Juries Act to permit changes in the per diem allowances for jurors, to increase the amount of their travel allowances and to permit cost sharing between the Province and the relevant municipal units on an ability to pay basis. Amendments made to Section 18 of the Juries Act in 1985 allow for the implementation of resolution 1. A copy of Section 18, as amended is attached.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
2 (A3)	ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE COSTS BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Province of Nova Scotia assume full responsibility for all costs involved in the prosecution of individuals involved in the illegal importation of drugs.	Municipality of Barrington (Southwestern Region)	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Attorney General Resolution 2 requests the Province to assume full responsibility for all costs involved in the prosecution of individuals involved in the illegal importation of drugs. While drug offences are prosecuted by the Federal Department of Justice, and fines are payable to the Federal Government, this Resolution raises the larger question of the Province assuming the full costs of the administration of justice. Costs relating to the administration of justice are substantial and, because of the large budget implications, a takeover by the Province would require a comprehensive review of the fiscal arrangements between the Province and the municipalities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
3 (A4)	HIGHWAY LITTERING BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities intensify its efforts to convince the Nova Scotia Government to recommend to the Attorney General's Department that a much heavier fine be imposed for dumping and littering of garbage along our highways and scenic drives of the Province of Nova Scotia. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the R.C.M.P. be requested to increase surveillance and prosecution of offenders.	Municipality of the District of Digby (South Western Region)	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Attorney General Resolution 3 recommends a heavier fine for the dumping and littering of garbage along our highways. The littering and dumping of garbage is prohibited under the Motor Vehicles Act and the Public Highways Act. In each case the fine is a minimum of $50 and a maximum of $500 or six months imprisonment, or both. Both of these statutes are administered by the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Therefore, it is inappropriate for me to comment extensively. However, I think I can properly say that the fine structure under the Motor Vehicle Act generally provides a higher fine for littering or dumping material on a highway exceeds a minimum fine for violating traffic signs such as stop signs or yield signs and is equivalent to the minimum fine for safety related offences such as speeding. Consideration is currently being given to increasing the maximum $500 fine to a $2,000 fine.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
4 (A5)	COURT HOUSE COSTS THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province of Nova Scotia to assume the costs of Court Houses in the province.	Cumberland County (Cumberland Region)	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Attorney General Resolution 4 asks the Province to assume the costs of court houses in Nova Scotia. Municipalities have a legal obligation to provide court house facilities as local needs dictate. Costs relating to court houses are substantial and, because of the large budget implications, a takeover of court houses would require a comprehensive review of the fiscal arrangement between the Province and the municipalities. Changing needs are being addressed through cooperation between the Province and municipalities and the public is being well served. While no change is contemplated in this arrangement at the next Session of the Legislature, I intend to deal with this matter in the coming months.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
5 (A6)	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE COSTS BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Minister of Community Services and the Provincial Government to abandon its present practice, and return to full sharing on general assistance and administration costs and place such full sharing on a firm legislated basis, of not less than 75% Provincial, to take effect 1 April, 1989; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Minister of Community Services and the Provincial Government to assume full responsibility for the health care component of care in Homes for Special Care.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Minister of Community Services The Task Force on Levels of Cost-sharing of Municipal Assistance has now submitted its report and Government will be giving careful consideration to the recommendation relating to the cost-sharing of Municipal General Assistance. With respect to Homes for Special Care, the Department of Community Services will share at the rate of 66 2/3% on the total municipal expenditure on Homes for Special Care effective April 1, 1989. Based on current year expenditures, this will mean an additional $6,000,000.00 provincial payment to municipalities for Homes for Special Care.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
6 (A55)	INCREASING OF MUNICIPAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities strongly oppose the unilateral increasing of Municipal Social Assistance as a result of Ministerial directives.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Minister of Community Services The request to municipalities to increase the rates for food, clothing and miscellaneous essentials up to Family Benefits levels was preceded by consultation with officials of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
7 (A7)	SETTLEMENT ACT BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Provincial Government to institute an immediate and comprehensive review of the Settlement Act and determine whether it should be amended, and if so in what way, so as to ensure a more efficient and equitable distribution of the costs of social assistance among municipal units, and the payment by municipal units of their responsibilities under the system adopted.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Minister of Community Services The Task Force on Levels of Cost-sharing for Municipal Assistance addressed the matter of the Settlement Act and recommended that the provisions of the Settlement Act not apply to the General Assistance Program but continue to be applicable to Homes for Special Care and Community Residence Programs. This recommendation will be carefully reviewed and further discussion will be held with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
8 (A8)	RELATIVE SUPPORT BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province of Nova Scotia to amend Section 30 of the Social Assistance Act, so as to provide for more realistic contribution levels from spouses and family members of Senior Citizens in Homes for Special Care and Homes for the Aged.	Town of Liverpool (South Shore Region)	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Minister of Community Services The Government does not intend to proclaim, at this time, the amendment to the Social Assistance Act, relating to contribution levels by relatives of residents of Homes for Special Care.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
9 (A9)	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia has passed recent amendments to the Social Assistance Act whereby persons owning homes, who are admitted to a Home for Special Care, no longer are liable to have their residence sold for their maintenance costs; AND WHEREAS this amendment by itself costs a Municipal Unit some loss of revenue; AND WHEREAS this amendment further allows persons to rearrange their financial affairs to the detriment of the Municipal unit. BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Nova Scotia be called upon to compensate the Municipal Units for any loss of revenue attributable to this change in the Act.	Municipality of the District of Chester (South Shore Region)	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Minister of Community Services Effective April 1, 1989, the Province will share with municipalities 66 2/3% of the total cost of Homes for Special Care. This measure will provide over $6,000,000 additional dollars to municipalities based on current year expenditures. The legislated sharing rate will mean that the province will be cost-sharing with municipalities on any increased cost that may result from the amendment to the Social Assistance Act relating to the principle residents or applicants for a Home for Special Care.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
10 (A10)	PROVINCIAL POLICY ON AIDS BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities support the efforts of the Government and pledge its co-operation in developing an appropriate and fair policy designed to deal with the problems.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Thomas J. McInnis Minister of Community Services The Provincial Task Force on AIDS has now reported and a number of the recommendations impact on the Municipal Social Services Program. The Department of Community Services is prepared to work with municipalities in developing appropriate policies for the provision of services to persons with AIDS.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
11 (A11)	EDUCATION FUNDING BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Government to abandon the concept of Supplementary Funding and base its funding on the total cost of education.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Ron Giffin Minister of Education I am aware that the Formula Review Committee is discussing the concept of supplementary funding at meetings being held at the present time. I expect to receive the Committee's report later this year. I can assure you that supplementary funding, along with all other funding recommendations, will be given serious consideration to ensure the funding arrangements provide sufficient grants and are distributed equitably to all district school boards in Nova Scotia.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
12 (A12)	REGULATION OF STRIP MINING BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities contact the Minister of Mines and Energy for the Province of Nova Scotia, requesting that he introduce to the Nova Scotia Legislature amendments to the Mineral Resources Act, and all other relevant legislation, initiating a public participation program into the permit approval process for strip mining operations in the Province of Nova Scotia; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister be requested to include the following principles in this public participation program: (a) that all information, including the results of all studies conducted prior to approval of a permit be made available to the public prior to the issuance of a permit; (b) that environmental impact studies be carried out by Government agencies or companies engaged by the Provincial Government rather than by the developer of the mine site; (c) that the program contain a public right and method of appeal of all decisions relevant to the granting of strip mining permits.	County of Cape Breton	Honourable Donald P. McInnes Minister of Environment The Department of the Environment is prepared to work with the Department of Mines and Energy in the development of regulations under appropriate legislation dealing with strip mining.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
13 (A13)	DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Province of Nova Scotia be requested to undertake a collection of hazardous wastes to be transported to an appropriate disposal site, and that this collection be given the widest possible advertisment.	Municipality of the County of Pictou (Pictou/Antigonish/Guysborough Region)	Honourable Donald P. McInnes Minister of Environment The Department of the Environment is in the process of implementing the Minister's Task Force on Hazardous Wastes Management. Regulations under the Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Wastes Management Act are being developed or have been proclaimed for: waste oil, asbestos, PCB storage, and chemical storage. To date, the Department is working actively, or has implemented 30 of the 51 Task Force recommendations. This Fall the Department also provided funds and technical support to the Ecology Action Centre to co-ordinate a household hazardous wastes collection day in the Metropolitan area. This project was also supported financially by the local municipal governments and the private sector. The Department would be interested in proposals from other municipalities for household hazardous wastes collection projects that they are interested in co-ordinating.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
14 (A14)	NON-RETURNABLE CONTAINERS BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Province be requested to set up immediately a program whereby such containers can be returned and money refunded for them. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be referred to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with the request that it research the possibility of banning the production and use of such containers throughout Canada.	Cumberland County (Cumberland Region)	Honourable Donald P. McInnes Minister of Environment The Task Force on Litter Abatement has completed its public hearing process and a report with recommendations will be presented shortly. The subject of non-returnable containers has been brought to the attention of the Task Force and the Department will, in all likelihood, be guided by the deliberations and findings of the Task Force on this subject.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
15 (A15)	RECYCLING OF SOLID WASTE THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.N.S.M. petition the Provincial Government to promote the development within the Province of Nova Scotia, of those industries that use recycled materials in their processing, thereby reducing the amount of solid waste disposed of into the environment. FURTHER that the Government of Nova Scotia take the lead of P.E.I. in reducing the amount of non-returnable containers in the market place.	Municipality of Queens (South Shore Region)	Honourable Donald P. McInnes Minister of Environment The Department of the Environment has recently announced a curbside "blue box" recycling demonstration project to be undertaken jointly with the Municipality of the County of Kings. The project, which will begin in April 1989, is designed to examine and promote recycling in Nova Scotia and will involve some 10,000 homes in the Kings County area. The Department will also be assisting the Municipality of Queens with costs related to providing recycling collection boxes to be located at various sites in the County. The Department, as well, will be reviewing the recommendations of the Minister's Task Force on Litter Abatement which focused a good deal of its attention on the prospect of recycling in the Province.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
16 (B5)	CORKUMS ISLAND CAUSEWAY BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the two other orders of government be asked to undertake a study in order to positively establish the effects the construction of the causeway has had on the environment as well as the ecology.	Municipality of the District of Lunenburg	Honourable Donald P. McInnes Minister of Environment The Department of the Environment has recently indicated to a local citizen's committee that it is prepared to include a study of water quality in the area of the causeway as part of a possible Pollution Control Study undertaken for the upper South Cove area. A Pollution Control Study is normally undertaken or arranged at the request of the municipality.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
17 (A56)	AMENDMENTS TO THE HEALTH ACT THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Health be requested to introduce legislation to amend the Health Act in order to provide the Boards of Health with the capacity to enforce compliance with the conditions under which their permits for installation of on-site sewage disposal systems are issued. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such amendments be similar in form to Schedule "A" attached hereto.	Municipality of the County of Queens	Honourable Joel Matheson Minister of Health and Fitness I am aware of municipal concerns on the general issue of enforcing on site sewage disposal elements of the Health Act. Government is contemplating some legislative amendments to the Health Act on this issue.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
18 (A16)	LONG STAY IN HOSPITAL WHEREAS the President of the Union and his advisors are negotiating with the Minister of Health and Fitness, to resolve the problems of long stay patients in hospital on a basis satisfactory to the Union. BE IT RESOLVED that this Conference endorse the stands being taken on behalf of the Union in these negotiations and vigorously pursue the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Joel Matheson Minister of Health and Fitness This agreement has been finalized. I am pleased that many of the municipalities have signed the agreement to help alleviate some of the ongoing difficulties in this area. However, I am very disappointed at the number of municipalities who have not signed the agreement. I am hopeful that this situation can be improved upon in the near future.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
19 (A20)	DEED TRANSFER TAX BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Minister of Municipal Affairs to amend Section 3(1) of this Act by deleting the mandated amount of one-half of one percent and allowing Municipal Units flexibility in establishing a Deed Transfer Tax by by-law of between one-half of one percent and one percent of the value of the property transferred, according to their perceived needs.	Municipality of the District of East Hants (Colchester/East Hants Region)	Honourable Brian Young Minister of Municipal Affairs Staff of the Department have reviewed this resolution and agree that the matter be fully considered with a view to recommending a suitable amendment to the Land Transfer Tax Act.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
20 (A21)	NOISE CONTROL BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Attorney General for the Province of Nova Scotia be requested to amend the Towns Act and the Municipal Act, or such other necessary Act, or to pass necessary enabling legislation, whereby municipalities will be permitted to pass enforceable municipal by-laws concerning the control of noise within municipalities.	Resolutions Committee	Honourable Brian Young Minister of Municipal Affairs The Department has some concern regarding the practical difficulties of enforcing noise control by-laws. We have discussed our concerns with the Union's solicitor and will work with him to see if the approach taken by Bedford has provided effective control of noise problems.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
21 (A23)	TRAVEL EXPENSE WHEREAS Section 221 (1A) of the Towns Act and Section 191 (4A) of the Municipal Act provides for "...payment of reasonable expenses incurred by Council Members for travel outside the municipal unit", and WHEREAS the By-laws discussion paper which was filed by the Department of Municipal Affairs in August of 1985, recommends that "...councils should make their own policy with respect to these expenses. The By-laws Steering Committee recommended the repeal of this provision subject to its being included in the Acts as an expenditure item"; WHEREAS most, if not all, municipal units have improperly authorized such travel by policy or resolution. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Minister of Municipal Affairs to proceed with haste in implementing the recommendation of the By-laws Steering Committee.	Town of Port Hawkesbury (Inverness/Richmond/Victoria Region)	Honourable Brian Young Minister of Municipal Affairs The Department agrees that there is a need to address the recommendations of the By-laws Steering Committee and that appropriate amendments to the legislation be fully considered.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
22 (A24)	NOTICE REQUIRED TO CALL SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Minister of Municipal Affairs to introduce an amendment to Section 90 of the Municipal Act with similar wording as Section 22 of the Towns Act.	Municipality of Queens (South Shore Region)	Honourable Brian Young Minister of Municipal Affairs The Department agrees with the intent of this resolution. The matter will be fully considered with a view to recommending suitable amendments to the Towns Act and Municipal Act.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted By	Response
23(A28)	THE "BIG FIX" BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities continue its efforts to seek federal, provincial and municipal participation in addressing municipal infrastructure needs on a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 basis. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities pledge its support to the continuing efforts of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to convince the Federal and Provincial Governments to participate in such a program.	Resolutions Committee	Department of Municipal Affairs In the last five years the provincial government has contributed $100 million towards municipal infrastructure development through both conditional and unconditional capital assistance programs. Ongoing unconditional capital and new conditional capital commitments already announced (i.e.; Halifax Harbour Clean-Up and the 5-year, $50 million Environmental Enhancement Program) will result in a Provincial Government commitment of $190 million in new money toward municipal infrastructure development and renewal over the next five years. It is estimated that in the area of water and sewer servicing, approximately $450 million is required to install high priority systems and to upgrade existing ones. Of the $190 million, $150 million will be spent on water and sewer system development and renewal. Clearly the Provincial Government is committed to playing a major role in addressing the problem of an inadequate and deteriorating municipal infrastructure system. While the Provincial Government's commitment is considered to be substantial, it is recognized that full realization of the so-called "big fix" will not occur unless Federal Government participation becomes a reality. Resolutions calling for federal participation have been unanimously passed at the past three annual Provincial Ministers of Municipal Affairs meetings. The Province of Nova Scotia has been very supportive of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' activity in this area as well and will continue to press for federal participation on a national, regional and provincial basis. In the meantime, the Government of Nova Scotia will continue to work closely with Nova Scotia municipalities to ensure that the most urgent of needs are being addressed on a priority basis.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
24(A29)	PLANNING ACT AMENDMENT BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province to amend the Planning Act to permit the aforementioned, under Subdivision Regulations or a Subidvision By-Law.	County of Cape Breton (Cape Breton Region)	Department of Municipal Affairs Staff of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Cape Breton Metro Planning Commission have discussed those situations giving rise to this resolution. The Department agrees that the matter be fully considered with a view to recommending a suitable amendment to the Planning Act.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
25(A32)	LIABILITY OF FIREWARDS BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Act be amended to provide that a Fireward shall be immune from liability under any act done while acting as a Fireward for a volunteer fire department and that the Act further be amended to include all duties which a Fireward may be called upon in addition to fire protection or fire prevention.	Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (South Shore Region)	Department of Municipal Affairs In canvassing the problem of liability of volunteer firefighters and in attempting to identify possible solutions, it is evident that the scope of volunteer concerns and desires are not well understood. To get a better understanding of the situation, a special committee has been formed by the Minister of Labour to address this subject. The mandate of the committee will be finalized by the participants but would include the collection of information from the interest groups who will be affected and the identification of options which could be recommended to government. The Committee includes representatives from the UNSM, the Nova Scotia Fire Prevention Advisory Council/Volunteer Fire Service, the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Labour (Fire Marshall's Office and Legal Counsel).

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
26(A36)	STREET VENDING BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province of Nova Scotia to introduce appropriate legislation or amend existing legislation both in the Towns Act and the Municipal Act that would enable a municipal unit to regulate, license and control street vending within its municipal boundaries, including the vending of products of the farm, the forest and the sea.	Town of Liverpool (South Shore Region)	Department of Municipal Affairs The Department has reviewed this resolution and agrees that the matter be fully considered with a view to recommending suitable amendments to both the Towns Act and Municipal Act.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
27(A37)	SELF INSURANCE BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities be requested to investigate with the appropriate Provincial Government Department the feasibility of some type of municipal self insurance for all municipalities across the Province of Nova Scotia.	Town of Liverpool (South Shore Region)	UNSM Office Comment The matter of Municipal Self Insurance is currently under review with the provincial consortium who currently provide program to the Nova Scotia School Boards Association.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
28(A38)	SALVAGE YARDS BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the resolution conveyed to the Province of Nova Scotia in 1987 regarding the fencing of salvage yards be reinstated.	Metro Region	Department of Municipal Affairs "We do not know of any municipality that has met its responsibility to determine the appropriate location for salvage yards under the zoning provisions of the Planning Act. This greatly complicates the enforcement of the Salvage Yards Licensing Act and results in the necessity for the Board to issue licenses in inappropriate locations. We have eight inspectors under the Salvage Yards Licensing Act for the whole Province. Most of them do a good job with difficult problems. Often they are "damned if they do and damned if they don't". If the municipalities have a particular problem with our enforcement I would appreciate it if they would let me know. General resolutions and complaints aren't helpful and are by the nature of the problem of salvage yards, inevitable."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
29(A54)	LIMIT ON AMOUNT OF CONTRACT BE IT THEREFORE RESOVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Department of Municipal Affairs to amend Section 97(2) of the Municipal Act by increasing the limitation to $5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) from $500.00 (five hundred dollars).	Municipality of the County of Cumberland	Department of Municipal Affairs The Department has reviewed this resolution and agrees that the matter be fully considered with a view to recommending a suitable amendment to the Municipal Act.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
30(B2)	SINGLE APPROVING AUTHORITY THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request of the Province to amalgamate all of the aforementioned services under one Department so that an individual or company seeking to establish a business could cut through the red tape by dealing solely with one Department which would have authority to process and approve an application.	Municipality of the County of Richmond (Inverness-Richmond-Victoria Region)	Department of Municipal Affairs Municipal Affairs has taken the initiative to reduce red tape associated with development through amendments to the Planning Act arising from the recommendations of the Planning Act Review Committee. The Department has attempted through the Planning Act to institute the concept of "one stop shopping" by making the local development officer the co-ordinating point for various development approvals. We have attempted to integrate various provincial standards (Health, Environment, Transportation) under the umbrella of provincial subdivision regulations which are administered by the development officer. The Department has done much to reduce the number of offices a person must visit to obtain approvals. However, the reality is that people will most inevitably want to visit in person every approving agency to support their applications especially if there is some problem anticipated. We would be pleased to consider any specific suggestions for further improvements that the UNSM wishes to bring forward at Task Force.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
31(A39)	POLICING, RURAL MUNICIPALITIES BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government ensure, through contract agreement between the Solicitor General and the RCMP, that sufficient manpower and resources (requirements deemed and substantiated by the RCMP for proper levels of policing throughout the province) be fully funded through the Provincial Government.	Metro Region	Department of the Solicitor General "The provincial government, and more recently the Department of the Solicitor General, has always insured that through contract agreement between the federal Solicitor General and the R.C.M.P. that sufficient manpower and resources are funded through the provincial government for rural municipalities. However, as you are no doubt aware, non-rural municipalities are required under the Police Act to assume the cost of policing in their respective areas. Where a rural area of Nova Scotia wishes to have an urban level of policing they, as a municipality, must provide for the cost of that extra level of urban policing which they may deem necessary. As you have mentioned, there is indeed a Task Force underway to review the allocation and funding of services including policing and I know that they are actively considering the question of police services."

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
32(A40)	TRANSPORTATION SAFETY THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Province of Nova Scotia through its Department of Transportation and other appropriate departments and authorities to conduct a safety survey of all school bus transportation routes in the Province in the interest of children's safety.	Town of Port Hawkesbury (Inverness, Richmond, Victoria Region)	Honourable George Moody Minister of Transportation and Communications This resolution urges the Province to conduct a safety survey of all school bus transportation routes in the Province in the interest of childrens' safety. The Department of Transportation and Communications would support such a study, however, it should be initiated by the Department of Education and should also involve the Public Utilities Board.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
33(A41)	COST-SHARED MAINTENANCE, PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation arrange a more equitable sharing agreement with those municipal units that have four lane highways in their jurisdiction.	Town of Port Hawkesbury (Inverness-Richmond-Victoria Region)	Department of Transportation This resolution asks for a more equitable cost sharing agreement between the Department of Transportation and Communications and municipal units that have four lane highways in their jurisdictions. The present formula for cost-sharing on construction and maintenance of shareable streets in cities and towns is based on all costs incurred over the full width of the street from curb to curb regardless of the number of travel lanes. We do not even consider the parking lanes that are on both sides of most of these streets as being non-shareable even though they do not carry any through traffic. Similarly, the grants given for snow removal and ice control are based on equivalent 10 foot lane miles which includes the full width of the street including parking lanes. On the basis of the above, I feel that the present method of determining cost-sharing with municipal units takes into account four lane streets and no changes are contemplated at this time.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
34(A42)	PROVINCIAL ROAD CONDITIONS BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities strongly urge the Province of Nova Scotia to continue to develop minimum maintenance standards for secondary gravel roads to ensure year-around usage.	Municipality of the County of Yarmouth (South Western Region)	Department of Transportation This resolution strongly urges the Province of Nova Scotia to continue to develop minimum maintenance standards for secondary gravel roads to ensure year around usage. I can assure you that this department and the present government of Nova Scotia are committed to providing reasonable driving conditions on all provincial roads throughout the Province. We feel that the overall conditions of roads are improving each year and we will continue to give this a high priority.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
35(A44)	PARKING METER FINES BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province of Nova Scotia to amend both the Motor Vehicle Act, R.S.N.S., 1967, Chapter 191 as amended and the Towns Act, R.S.N.S., 1967, Chapter 309 as amended so as to vest in municipal units the sole authority to set parking meter violation fines thereby eliminating the need for further approval of these amounts by the local traffic authority and/or the Minister of Transportation.	Town of Liverpool (South Western Region)	Department of Transportation This resolution is asking that municipal units have the sole authority to set parking meter violation fines thereby eliminating the need for further approval of these amounts by the local Traffic Authority and/or the Minister of Transportation and Communications. The current practice of the municipal unit submitting proposals for parking meter violation fines to the Minister of Transportation and Communications for approval is pursuant to Section 137(6) of the Motor Vehicle Act. This appears to be a reasonably workable procedure and no changes are contemplated at this time.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
36(B3)	CANSO CAUSEWAY BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be petitioned to carry out an Engineering Study to determine what safety precaution, if any, could be developed or implemented during the winter months to the Canso Causeway.	Town of Mulgrave (Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough Region)	Department of Transportation This resolution deals with closures of the Canso Causeway during the winter season and the occurrence of accidents. Staff report the causeway is closed on an average of only once or twice for a 3-4 hour period each year. While there were a series of accidents on March 8th, 1988, our records show for most years there is very little difference in the number of accidents during the winter compared with the summer months. With the exception of March 8th, 1988 mentioned above, accidents during the past few winters have ranged from nil in 1986 to a maximum of 3 in 1984 and 1985. My department is continually monitoring the situation and looking for solutions to improve the safety of the causeway. When one considers the harsh winter conditions that from time to time occur in Nova Scotia, the fact remains this section of highway, along with several other highways throughout the Province, will be closed for short periods.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
12 (A12)	REGULATION OF STRIP MINING BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities contact the Minister of Mines and Energy for the Province of Nova Scotia, requesting that he introduce to the Nova Scotia Legislature amendments to the Mineral Resources Act, and all other relevant legislation, initiating a public participation program into the permit approval process for strip mining operations in the Province of Nova Scotia; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister be requested to include the following principles in this public participation program: (a) that all information, including the results of all studies conducted prior to approval of a permit be made available to the public prior to the issuance of a permit; (b) that environmental impact studies be carried out by Government agencies or companies engaged by the Provincial Government rather than by the developer of the mine site; (c) that the program contain a public right and method of appeal of all decisions relevant to the granting of strip mining permits.	County of Cape Breton	Honourable Ken Streatch Minister of Mines & Energy I wish to advise you that during the last session of the Legislature, the Provincial Government passed "An Act Respecting Environmental Assessment", which I expect will be proclaimed and become law very shortly. I believe that the Environmental Assessment Act will ensure that individuals or groups in the community will have access to information concerning all major mining projects and that they will have the opportunity to express to Government any concerns that they may have. I can advise you that I will ensure that the Environmental Assessment Act will apply to all major mining projects in the Province, and further that no mining projects will be allowed to proceed unless all of the required permits have been issued by our Department of the Environment. The Mineral Resources Act is a legislated document which allows the Government to ensure that our mineral resources are developed and used properly. It is not a document which can deal effectively with social or environmental issues, therefore the principles you outlined in your Resolution should properly be dealt with under the environmental legislation rather than under the Mineral Resources Act.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
37 (A45)	INCOME TAX DEDUCTION BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the appropriate changes be made to Federal and Provincial legislation which would provide that these contributions by family members be deducted from their taxable income as they are making a contribution to the health care cost of society.	Municipality of the County of Pictou (Pictou/Antigonish/Guysborough Region)	UNSM Office Comment This matter is currently under review and study by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
38 (A46)	INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR FIREMEN BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities support the efforts of these urban and rural firemen to obtain personal Income Tax relief, credit or deduction, in an amount that would provide relief equivalent to a $1,000.00 tax deduction, for providing an essential service to the residents of urban and rural Nova Scotia.	Resolutions Committee	UNSM Office Comment This matter is currently under review and study by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by,	Response
39 (A47)	SEARCH AND RESCUE FACILITIES BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities again urge the Federal Government to take immediate steps to provide adequate search and rescue services from vessels and helicopters stationed at appropriate areas throughout the Province.	Resolutions Committee	UNSM Office Comment This resolution has been approved for furtherance to the appropriate federal authorities by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. It is understood that certain improvements have already been undertaken in the Yarmouth area.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
40 (A48)	CANADIAN POSTAL CORPORATION BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Canada Postal Corporation expand its intended level of door to door services to include newly developed areas within Municipalities which can be accomplished with existing Corporation personnel.	Town of New Glasgow (Pictou/Antigonish/Guysborough Region)	UNSM Office Comment This resolution has been forwarded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to the appropriate federal authorities for their comment.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
41 (A53)	FURTHER CLOSURE OF URBAN AND/OR RURAL POST OFFICES IN NOVA SCOTIA BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities write the Honourable Harvey Andre, urging him to use all the powers of his office as Minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation to stop Canada Post Corporation from systematically closing our Post Offices in Nova Scotia, and, when closures are being considered, that Canada Post Corporation meet with the Councils of the municipal units affected. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to each of the following: Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada; Honourable John M. Buchanan, Premier, Province of Nova Scotia; Honourable Elmer MacKay, Minister of National Revenue; Honourable Stewart McInnes, Minister of Public Works.	Pictou County Regional (Resolutions Committee)	UNSM Office Comment This resolution has been forwarded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to the appropriate federal authorities for their comment.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
42 (A50)	FIRE DEPARTMENTS' EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL EXCISE TAX BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia support the request of Nova Scotia Municipalities to exempt volunteer fire departments from the payment of Federal Excise Tax to the Government of Canada; and FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia amend the Municipal Act in order that volunteer fire departments may be "municipalities" under the Act soley for the purpose of being exempt from the payment of Federal Excise Tax.	District of Lunenburg (South Shore Region)	UNSM Office Comment This resolution was deferred by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities pending receipt of additional supporting information. The information has been provided and we will await the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' disposition of the same.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
43 (B1)	CAPE SABLE ISLAND CAUSEWAY BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the two senior levels of government be asked to undertake a study in order to positively establish the affects the construction of the causeway has had on the environment as well as the ecology.	Municipality of Barrington (Southwestern Region)	UNSM Office Comment This matter has been referred to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities who are waiting for additional supporting information prior to proceeding. The information has been requested from the sponsoring unit.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
44 (B4)	MORATORIUM OF RAIL CLOSURES BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities petition the Minister of Transportation to declare a 5-year moratorium on the closure of the CNR line from Barry's stillwater Marsh (near Chester) to the town of Liverpool known as the Chester Subdivision.	South Shore Region	Honourable Benoit Buchard Federal Minister of Transport I appreciate being informed of the resolution adopted by the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities with respect to certain rail closures and, in particular, CN's application for abandonment of the Chester Subdivision. As you know, CN submitted its application for abandonment to the National Transportation Agency on June 18, 1988. In accordance with National Transportation Act, 1987 regulations, the notice of application to be issued by the railway must be published in the newspapers with the largest circulation in each area served by the railway line. Interested parties may file written submissions with the Agency not more than sixty days after the date of the notice of application. According to the provisions of the Act, the Agency has six months, after the date the application for abandonment is received, in which to deal with this line abandonment matter. The concerns which you have expressed on behalf of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities have been forwarded to members of the Agency for consideration when this subject matter is dealt with. However, all interested parties are encouraged to file their interventions directly with the Agency. These submissions should outline views and concerns in as much detail as possible, and should include each company's precise forecast for potential carload traffic in the foreseeable future. If opposition is registered before the Agency, I would expect that all of the issues your Union has raised will be addressed; either by the Agency in deciding on the application, or by those opposing the abandonment, in presenting their evidence before the Agency. Even if the Agency, after considering all evidence presented to it, orders the line abandoned, any province, municipality or other interested person may get the abandonment postponed, under Section 172(2) of the NTA, by undertaking to pay the actual loss attributable to the line for as long as it wishes to keep the line open. I should point out, however, that CN claimed a loss of $1.3 million on this line in 1986; therefore, it would cost in that order to keep it open for one year.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
45 (A26)	PROXY VOTES BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Provincial Government to amend the Municipal Elections Act to permit Electors, who will be absent from the Province of Nova Scotia on Advance Poll Days and Ordinary Poll Day, to vote by Proxy.	Town of Annapolis Royal (Valley Region)	UNSM Office Comment This matter has been referred to the Department of Municipal Affairs for review and study.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
46 (A30)	DOGS CHASING, WORRYING OR KILLING OR ATTEMPTING TO KILL CATTLE, POULTRY, SWINE AND GOATS BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities hereby requests the Province of Nova Scotia to enact laws which will permit the killing of dogs which worry, chase, attempt to kill or kill cattle, poultry, goats and swine, or to enact such laws to allow the municipalities to pass by-laws to the aforesaid effect. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sheep Protection and Dog Regulation Act be amended to provide the ability of a municipal council to set an initial dog tax and to increase the said tax if the dogs are not licensed by a date certain or specified in the by-law in any calendar year.	Municipality of West Hants (Valley Region)	UNSM Office Comment This matter has been referred to the Department of Municipal Affairs pending a review of the Sheep Protection & Dog Regulation Act.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
47 (A35)	<u>MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT TAX</u> **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities go on record as strongly opposing the elimination of Machinery and Equipment Tax, including any phasing in program. **FURTHER** that the Union recommend as an alternate proposal that the Minister of Municipal Affairs introduce legislation which would permit Municipalities to enter into a Special Agreement with existing or prospective industries to give tax concessions, phasing in of assessments or elimination of certain assessments for specified time periods in order to assist those industries with modernization projects so that they may become or stay competitive in the market place.	Municipality of Queens (South Shore Region)	UNSM Office Comment The Province has introduced legislation to remove Machinery and Equipment Tax for any machinery and equipment installed or renewed after December 1st, 1988.

Resolution Number	Title and Synopsis of Resolution	Submitted by	Response
48 (A57)	<u>REMEMBRANCE DAY</u> BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities made known to the Federal Government its desire to have legislation enacted declaring November 11th a Day of Remembrance for our war dead, and that the Federal Government close its offices and services under its jurisdiction on that day to the extent possible.	Resolutions Committee	UNSM Office Comment This matter has been referred to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as was the case with previous resolutions on the same subject area. Some jurisdictional difficulties are perceived by the Federation, however, the Union continues to feel that the matter is one of federal reference.

Resolution Number	SHARING OF INCOME TAX REVENUES	Submitted by	Response
49 (A52)	BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Provincial Government to share part of its Income Tax Revenues by way of a grant to those Municipal Units that have inordinate differences in their Residential and Commercial Tax Base.	Municipality of the District of East Hants	UNSM Office Comment As in earlier resolutions of previous years, this matter has been referred to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities who advise that pending a clearer picture of federal tax reforms, it is not felt appropriate to be dealt with in isolation of other matters.